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Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 31 July-9 August 2012
Agenda item 19
Adoption of the report of the Conference

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Peder **Gammeltoft** (Denmark)

Organization of the work of the Conference

A. Terms of reference

1. The Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held at United Nations Headquarters from 31 July to 9 August 2012, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decisions 2008/241, 2011/251 and 2012/209.

B. Opening of the Conference

2. The Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat opened the Conference.

C. Attendance

3. The Conference was attended by 87 participants. The list of participants is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgn.htm.

D. Election of the President

4. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 31 July 2012, the Conference elected, by acclamation, as President of the Conference, Mr. Botolv Helleland (Norway), who gave a welcoming address.

5. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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6. Also at the 1st plenary meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Canada, Israel, Palestine and Egypt.

E. Organizational matters

1. Adoption of the rules of procedure

7. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 31 July 2012, the Conference adopted its provisional rules of procedure.[1]

2. Adoption of the agenda

8. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 31 July 2012, the Conference adopted its provisional agenda (E/CONF.101/1). The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President of the Conference.
3. Organizational matters:
   (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda;
   (c) Election of officers other than the President;
   (d) Organization of work;
   (e) Credentials of representatives to the Conference.
4. Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Ninth Conference (for distribution only).
5. Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and task teams since the Ninth Conference.
6. National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications.
7. Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits.
8. National standardization:
   (a) Field collection of names;
   (b) Office treatment of names;
   (c) Treatment of names in multilingual areas;
   (d) Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures;

[1] The rules of procedure, as contained in document E/CONF.101/143, are available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgn.htm.

(e) Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors.

9. Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity (including indigenous, minority and regional language names).

10. Exonyms.

11. Toponymic data files and gazetteers:

(a) Content requirements;

(b) Data models and classifications;

(c) Data maintenance;

(d) Data standards and interoperability;

(e) Data services, applications and products (for example, gazetteers and web services).

12. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names.

13. Writing systems and pronunciation:

(a) Romanization;

(b) Conversion into non-Roman writing systems;

(c) Writing of names in unwritten languages;

(d) Pronunciation.

14. Country names.

15. Toponymic education.

16. Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation:

(a) Features common to two or more nations;

(b) Bilateral/multilateral agreements.

17. Arrangements for the Eleventh Conference.

18. Adoption of resolutions of the Conference.

19. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

20. Closing of the Conference.

3. Election of officers other than the President

9. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 31 July 2012, the Conference elected the following officers:

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. Abdul Kadir Taib (Malaysia)
Mr. Milan Adamič (Slovenia)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark), assisted by Ms. Lucy Phalaagae (Botswana)

Editor-in-Chief:
Mr. Trent Palmer (United States of America), assisted by Mr. Claude Tapsoba (Burkina Faso), Mr. Eman Orieby (Egypt), Ms. Susana Rodríguez-Ramos (Mexico) and Ms. Nina Syvak (Ukraine)

4. Organization of work

10. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 31 July 2012, the Conference approved its proposed organization of work (E/CONF.101/INF/3, in English only) and established four technical committees. The Conference also elected the officers and allocated agenda items to the technical committees as follows:

Technical Committee I: National standardization (agenda item 8 and sub-items (a)-(e)) and Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity (including indigenous minority and religious language names (agenda item 9)

Chairman:
Mr. William Watt (Australia)

Vice-Chairman:
Ms. Naima Friha (Tunisia)

Rapporteur:
Ms. Caroline Burgess (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, assisted by Mr. Hubert Bergmann (Austria)

Technical Committee II: Toponymic data files and gazetteers (agenda item 11 and sub-items (a)-(e))

Chairman:
Mr. Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany)

Vice-Chairman:
Mr. Eman Orieby (Egypt)

Rapporteur:
Ms. Laura Kostanski (Australia), assisted by Mr. Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)

Technical Committee III: Exonyms (agenda item 10); Writing systems and pronunciation (agenda item 13 and sub-items (a)-(d)); Country names (agenda item 14)

Chairman:
Mr. Leo Dillon (United States of America)

Vice-Chairman:
Mr. Peter Jordan (Austria)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig (Ireland), assisted by Mr. Peeter Päll (Estonia)

Technical Committee IV: Terminology in the standardization of geographical names (agenda item 12); Toponymic education (agenda item 15); Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation (agenda item 16 and sub-items (a) and (b))

Chairman:
Mr. Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairman:
Mr. Staffan Nyström (Sweden)

Rapporteur:
Ms. Wendy Shaw (New Zealand), assisted by Mr. Leif Nilsson (Sweden)

11. Agenda items 1 through 7 and 17 through 20 were considered in plenary meetings.

5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

12. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 31 July 2012, the Conference agreed, in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure, that the Credentials Committee would be composed of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur and a representative of the United Nations Statistics Division. It also decided that the Credentials Committee would examine the credentials of representatives and report to the plenary without delay.

13. At its 12th plenary meeting, on 8 August 2012, the Credentials Committee reported that the credentials of the representatives had been found to be in order.

F. Documentation

14. The list of documents before the Conference is posted on the website of the Tenth Conference.[2]

[2] Available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/uncsgn.htm.